

of his alma mater, California State University, Fresno.

Always dedicated to helping prevent hunger for Valley residents, Boren's volunteer advocacy on behalf of the Community Food Bank continues to aid those less fortunate. Additionally, his volunteer efforts on behalf of Children's Hospital of Central California, resulted in significant funds being raised for the annual Kids Day event, where he has raised tens of thousands of dollars for those seeking medical care at the valley's only children's hospital. Boren is a founding board member and remains active on the board of the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno.

A proud father, Marissa Boren continues in her father's footsteps and is dedicated to education and the community. She has just completed her education at the University of California at San Diego.

Boren, in his current role as Editorial Page Editor/Vice President, continues to write a weekly column on politics and public policy in addition to his duties overseeing the Bee's opinion pages. He is also a member of the Operating Committee, which is the senior management group of the newspaper.

On behalf of all those who have read his words, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Jim Boren for 40 years of providing interesting informative stories, columns and opinions to Fresno Bee readers everywhere.

THE TRUE IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage all citizens to take a moment during the upcoming Independence Day weekend to reflect on what the United States and the ideals of our Republic mean to them.

America's experiment with democracy represents the origins of a new outlook and new system of governance. Our founders dared to challenge history. The principles of personal liberty and collective justice—exercised daily across our country—were once little more than the lofty goals of our ancestors. Today, we have come a long way. We have struggled and continue to struggle, to achieve the true spirit of freedom for every American and every citizen of humanity.

When I reflect on the ideals of our nation and consider the significance of our shining example of freedom to the world, I think not only of our deep-rooted principle of self-determination but the basic liberties set forth by the Declaration of Independence and our Bill of Rights. These two great doctrines lay a foundation for all free nations.

But I believe freedom is more than words.

Freedom is a society in which all have an equal opportunity to succeed.

A free society is one in which citizens are not burdened by a perpetual cycle of poverty that breeds crime, violence and chronic disease.

A free society is one in which the people are not crushed into bankruptcy by the weight

of growing medical costs that seem without bounds.

Citizens of a free society need not choose between buying food and affording care.

A free society educates all of its children and provides vast opportunity for betterment beyond the classroom.

A free society ought not be bound by the shackles of oppression, be it physical restraints or the restraints imposed by a dependence on foreign assets.

A free society puts its stock in innovation, tapping into its own financial and human capital to grow a smarter economy and a safer future that doesn't poison our air, water and land or tie self determination to the foreign resources of another land's oppressor.

In our still pioneering young republic, we refuse to cede the initiative to innovate.

In our pursuit of freedom we agree to forgo some of our individual interests and intemperance to allow the space for open dialogue, debate and discussion.

Our society and all free societies must be open to compromise without bias to age, color or creed.

So as I stand here on the eve of our 233rd Independence Day, I am grateful for our founding fathers and their quest for democracy. While I value the vast distances we have traveled since Philadelphia, I remain mindful of the long journey yet to perfection.

On this Independence Day, I urge my fellow Arizonans and all Americans to endeavor to renew and revive the spirit of liberty that launched this great nation, and strive to seek a more perfect Union.

CONGRATULATING THE SOCORRO BULLDOGS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Socorro High School baseball team for winning the 2009 Texas 5A State Baseball Championship. The Socorro High Bulldogs ended their championship season with an impressive record, becoming the second team in El Paso history to bring home the coveted state title.

The team was tested by fierce competitors from across the great State of Texas, one of the most competitive states in the entire nation for high school baseball. As the post-season progressed, the Bulldogs fended off tough challengers and finished with an impressive 35-4 record.

On Saturday, June 20th, the Bulldogs had their toughest test this year when they faced the Lufkin Panthers in the state championship game at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock, Texas, and were down 2-0 in the game's early innings. The talented young men on the Socorro Bulldog team never waived and forged an impressive come-from-behind victory.

I am extremely proud of the dedication, determination, sportsmanship, and discipline of this talented baseball team and their Coach Chris Forbes. The members of this champion-

ship team are to be commended for their drive and perseverance. The 2009 team members include: Tavi Amparan, Chuy Diaz, Cory Falvey, Roger Favela, Chris Guzman, Eric Herrera, Bobby Mares, Sergio Mendoza, Marcus Molina, Armando Muniz, Jessirey Navarrete, Aaron Olivas, Josh Rodriguez, Rene Rodriguez, Oscar Sandate, Ivan Sigala, Angel Soria, George Stoltz, and Luis Yanez.

Head Coach Chris Forbes and his great team of assistant coaches, Joe Alvarez, Adrian Garcia, Federico Contreras, and Herbert Reyes, were the masterminds behind the team's success. Coach Forbes, in particular, instilled a sense of hard work and discipline that kept the players motivated throughout the regular season and post-season. As part of his 25-year career in coaching, the former Austin High School baseball player has taken Socorro to 20 playoff appearances. Coach Forbes also boasts the most wins (576) of any varsity baseball coach in El Paso.

The Bulldogs' championship title energized El Paso sports fans, as over a thousand parents and members of the community made the long journey to Round Rock to cheer the team to victory. This team will forever be remembered for its historic victory that brought the State Championship Trophy to El Paso, 60 years after the storied Bowie Bears baseball team achieved the same feat in 1949. I am proud to join my constituents from the 16th District of Texas in commending the Socorro Bulldogs baseball team for a job well done.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSMISSION ISSUES

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I greatly appreciate the sentiments expressed in the attached letter from Carl Zichella, and I intend to work with these groups to achieve strong environmental protections in areas affected by transmission line siting.

SIERRA CLUB,

Sacramento, CA, June 26, 2009.

Hon. JAY INSLEE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INSLEE: I write to thank you for your leadership on renewable energy development and transmission issues. The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and NRDC have concerns about the presidential override provision of the manager's transmission amendment. We recognize that it was not the intention of the amendment's author to, in any way, undermine environmental protection. We would like to work with Congressman Inslee and the Energy and Commerce Committee to help ensure that public land protection measures in transmission policy reforms are as strong as possible, as reflected in HR 2211 and to clarify the role of public stakeholders in the planning process the amendment establishes.

We are at your service in the coming days and weeks to address these issues.

Sincerely,

CARL ZICHELLA,
Western Renewable
Projects Director.